CRC Opens Newest Instructional Facilities

Cosumnes River College (CRC) opened its newest instructional facilities this fall. More than 200 people gathered for the dedication and grand opening of the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture at the end of August. The Elk Grove Center was dedicated in September after opening its doors for the start of the semester to more than 1,600 student enrollments.

“Both of these facilities mean a lot to the community,” said CRC President Dr. Deborah Travis. “The Winn Center is a model in green technology and will serve as a gathering place for members of the industry to meet and interact with each other and with students aspiring to join them in the industry. The Elk Grove Center serves the needs of many Elk Grove residents seeking affordable higher education.”

The Winn Center was funded by local bond money and private donations, including a $1 million gift from Mike, Pete and Tom Winn, who contributed one of the largest private individual gifts in the history of Cosumnes River College.

“As future leaders of Sacramento’s building industry enter the door behind me, we see those men and women of Cosumnes River College building character in this great, new place,” said Mike Winn during the dedication ceremony. “My family’s deepest hope is that this wonderful structure will house many life-altering moments of learning the essential social skills of engagement.”

The Winn Center houses the construction, architecture, photography and pharmacy technology programs and many classes from other disciplines are taking place in this new facility. The Elk Grove Center is offering approximately 40 classes to start.

“The start of the semester was very smooth,” said Vice President of Instruction Whitney Yamamura. “I heard a lot of students talking about how happy they were to have an additional neighborhood location to take classes.”

For now, the Elk Grove Center is offering morning classes, Monday through Thursday, but Yamamura added the college expects to be able to offer afternoon and some evening classes in the near future.
President’s Message
Fall 2013

PERSEVERANCE AND PROGRESS

CRC Colleagues and Friends,

What a difference a year makes! As we begin the Fall 2013 term, there is an unmistakable atmosphere of optimism and positive energy, indicative of the remarkable change from last fall when State budget uncertainties loomed large. How gratifying it is for all of us - CRC faculty, staff and administrators - to restore access to course offerings and welcome students back to comprehensive collegiate programs.

Despite the prolonged economic downturn, Cosumnes River College maintained its fidelity to academic excellence and continued its development of student-focused programs, services and facilities. Since early 2011, college faculty and the Curriculum Committee have worked to design and submit new transfer degrees, accelerating student completions and facilitating student transitions into the California State University system. Cosumnes River College now ranks in the top California community colleges offering fifteen new Associate Degrees for Transfer, A Degree with a Guarantee in such disciplines as Anthropology, Art History, Business, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, and Theatre Arts.

Student support services at CRC have also been enhanced through new resource centers and technology applications. Students now have the opportunity to complete an electronic educational plan and ready access to the plan to guide course selection and registration. Touch screen kiosks have been installed to ensure user-friendly Financial Aid services and timely responses to student assistance queries. And CRC is proud of last fall’s opening of a Veterans Resource Center to provide academic support for returning armed forces members and its new partnership with the Sacramento Veterans Center to offer counseling and community services to military veterans attending our college.

For those who attend, visit or pass by the campus locale, it is clear the Cosumnes River College footprint and “college-scape” have been dramatically transformed over the past twelve months. The much-needed Northeast Technical Buildings, new athletic fields, joint CRC-Regional Transit parking facility, iconic Winn Center for Construction and Architecture, and eagerly-awaited Elk Grove Center have all been opened with exciting fanfare and are providing students with engaging learning environments and tangible proof of CRC’s value for sustainability.

Many more college accomplishments, along with CRC’s upcoming goals, are chronicled in our 2012-13 Annual Report, Meeting the Challenge Together. I invite you to peruse this attractively-designed and informative report to the community by visiting the CRC website and accessing the following link: (website)

I am proud of the perseverance our faculty, staff and students have demonstrated in the face of protracted budget challenges, and most importantly, of the progress CRC has made in serving students with relevant programs, accessible services and innovative learning venues.

Here’s to another successful academic year!

Deborah J. Travis
Deborah J. Travis
Welcome to the Fall 2013 semester! We extend a warm welcome to our new staff and faculty joining our amazing community. It is a treat to see the growing line up of new faces as our college once again enters a phase of growth. Over the past year our campus community handled a wide range of changes from budget constraints to state mandates – and did so with an unwavering commitment to supporting student success. Thank you to our staff and faculty for your dedication and perseverance. Together we continue to make a difference for our (growing again – hooray!) student body.

The Classified Senate Team is very pleased to continue into a second year of representing CRC Classified staff:

Breanne Holland, President
Shevonna Blackshire, Vice President
April Robinson, Treasurer
Eva Rhodes, Secretary

Over the last year, our drive and commitment to supporting the empowerment of Classified staff through promoting participation, communication, and collaboration has developed into some very specific goals:

**Classified Professional Development Day 2013** – a day for staff to come together to collaborate and connect about the various departments on campus.

**Department Recognitions** – a survey of each department on campus including who works there, the department’s role in student success, and the most beneficial information everyone on campus should know about each department.

**Classified Purview** – a definition by the Classified staff of the areas on campus we find it important to have a say in – akin to the Academic Senate 10+1

**Improving Communication** – setting up an online discussion board so that Classified Staff can participate and contribute in Classified discussions even during the most hectic of times; update information pertinent to all Classified staff in an easily accessible format; and distribute Shared Governance Committee information for feedback and questions.

**Fundraising** – to help the Classified Senate be financially independent to allow for greater flexibility in planning Classified events.

We are excited to continue supporting staff development and leadership and encourage all staff to participate and share thoughts and ideas for future endeavors. The Classified Senate wishes everyone a fulfilling semester and we look forward to our shared efforts in empowering our students through education.

Sincerely,
2012-2013 Classified Senate Team

Welcome back to another year at Consmes River College. While the college is in a state of change and expansion I’m reminded each day of our culture of collegiality, high academic standards, our commitment to diversity and access. The 2013/2014 academic year will be filled with new challenges and opportunities and will test our skills in adapting to an ever evolving community college system, yet I am resolute in my belief that we will continue to surpass all expectations as we confront the challenges of meeting the needs of our community as one.

This year I’m excited to serve as the voice of your Academic Senate and represent faculty interests across multiple areas. Faculty serve as valued participants across an array of processes and systems on campus and are uniquely positioned to work as content experts, mentors and contributors to the way our college shapes this dynamic learning environment for the people of the region. Being a faculty member is so much more than what we do in the classroom and I’m proud to represent so many individuals who do what needs to be done in order to create a positive atmosphere for the whole student. So I challenge us all to stay connected, involved and committed to making CRC the best it can be.

Finally, On behalf of the faculty I would like to welcome our five new tenure track instructors to CRC. Amy Leung, Kathryn Morgan-Nance, Donnisha Robinson, Phuong Le and Sang Sertich are now a part of a rich tradition of teaching excellence and I am confident that they will continue our high standards of professionalism and service to the CRC community.

Thank you and have an outstanding fall semester.

BJ Snowden
Academic Senate President
The dust and noise settled on the east side of campus over the summer with the completion of the Winn Center, the parking structure and the new Calvine Road entrance. However, Regional Transit will soon begin construction on a new light rail and bus transfer station on the east side of Lot F and with the flyover nearly complete, will soon begin installing tracks for the South Sacramento Corridor (Blue Line) light rail extension.

While construction will not limit the use of the Bruceville entrance during on instructional days, construction may increase congestion so use of the new Calvine Road entrance or south entrance to access to the Parking Structure or Lots C or D is strongly recommended.

Lot F is currently scheduled to remain open but parking spaces will be reduced and construction work may impact use of the lot at times over the next year. The RT tracks and station construction are expected to take about two years to complete. The majority of the work on campus is expected to last through next summer. The major work is scheduled to take place during breaks in the academic schedule. Next summer, the Bruceville entrance and Lot F will be closed for most, if not all of the summer. Access and use of the stadium will be maintained.

The project will result in removal of trees along the track line and on campus for alterations to parking lot F, a pedestrian bridge across the entrance from the parking structure and the widening of the exit lanes to Bruceville Road.

With all of the projects on campus, trees have been removed and planted. Overall, we’ve had a net gain of 137 (175-38?) trees. And RT has been a great partner in ensuring the trees they remove are recycled and turned into mulch and wood chips.

This summer, construction began on the art gallery just west of the music building. This is expected to be completed sometime in May, 2014.

We’ve completed a lot of construction projects in the last year: the Northeast Technical Building, greenhouse and custodial, maintenance and receiving buildings, the athletic fields, the stadium with parking and perimeter improvement, the parking structure and new southeast entrance, the Winn Center and Elk Grove Center. In just a short period, much of the north and east sides of the main CRC campus have and will continue to change. The west side will see a nice addition with the Art Gallery and we have opened a great new center in the City of Elk Grove. It is an exciting time to be at CRC.

Your continued patience through all of our dust and noise is appreciated. The changing landscape benefits us all, especially our students!
Don Fields is a miracle according to his family. A year and a half ago, Fields had a cerebral hemorrhage. With just a 20 percent chance to live, his family prepared for the worst.

“Dad went from being a healthy 65-year-old who ran his own public relations company, took care of his 90-plus year-old mother and mother-in-law and his wife through breast cancer, to being in a coma in less than 24 hours,” said his daughter Eva Schwartz. “He spent 10 days in a coma and once he woke up, it was clear the stroke took away his ability to walk, talk and swallow.”

After many months, Fields began rehab, including taking adapted physical education classes at Cosumnes River College. The college offers several classes for those with various disabilities, including Motor Development for the Physically Challenged and an Adapted Aquatics class, which is very popular.

“Don has always worked really hard in class and wants to get better, but just the fact that he came to class and met other people who had been through the same thing as he had motivated him,” said Calamar.

And Fields agrees saying he came for exercise and to get stronger, but through classmates learned how to be a survivor.

“Adapted PE has given my father a life worth living,” said Schwartz. “When dad left the hospital, doctors felt there was nothing they could do and expected him to die. He came home drooling, staring at the floor and lacking the balance to even sit in his wheelchair without falling head-first onto the floor. Three years later, he is walking me down the aisle. Miracles do happen and don’t just give up on people.”

And walk her down the aisle he did. Earlier this summer, Don Fields also danced with his daughter at her wedding and while Fields said the stroke was a terrible experience, he also said “I’ve gotten closer to my family than I was before and walking Eva down the aisle was the culmination of a couple phases in life and it opens up a future to all of us.”

The adapted PE program helps many individuals such as Fields. The classes are usually filled and have students on the waiting list. The programs professor, Jeanne Calamar, was awarded the California Community College Educator of the year award in 2011.

Don Fields dances with daughter Eva at her wedding
Unless you have school-age kids, you might not have heard much about the sea change affecting the California K-12 system, known as Common Core State Standards. These standards require critical thinking in every subject and emphasize writing in every discipline. In anticipation of the ways these changes will affect us at the community college level, I am working with the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) to increase communication and collaboration between CRC and high school teachers.

This project began last fall when Erik Olson, a Laguna Creek High School English teacher, contacted me and asked whether my department would work with representatives from several EGUSD English departments to develop a semester-long unit in which students will read an informative text (7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens) and write argumentative essays. As a result, many members of our department collaborated with them last spring and created a unit comprised of reading and writing assignments that reflect both Common Core Standards and our own Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

In another aspect of my project, I met with EGUSD curriculum specialists and asked how we at CRC could help as they adjust to their new requirements. Thanks to the generosity of CRC social science, history and physics professors, the specialists now have some assignments and student papers to use as examples of our expectations for college-level writing at CRC. However, this is just a beginning, and I would love to hear from anyone in any subject area who has more information and examples to share!

Finally, along with Humanities and Social Science Dean Ginny McReynolds, I’m writing a section for a California Academic Partnership Program grant that will award Florin High money to strengthen their connection to both CRC and Sacramento State so their students are more prepared to rise swiftly and smoothly from one institution to the next.

At the date of this writing, I have invitations to attend English department meetings at 15 of our local junior high and high school campuses. With luck, during this semester I’ll also be able to attend department meetings in social sciences, science and math to learn which resources will help them better prepare their students for CRC.

By working teacher-to-teacher, we can shape inevitable 9-12th grade curriculum changes in ways that more closely reflect CRC’s expectations. We can also benefit from the extensive EGUSD professional development workshops that introduce new twists on innovative techniques, many of which could be tailored to our classrooms and goals. With luck and collaboration, we can ensure that the changes sparked by Common Core will eventually lead to an increasing number of freshmen who arrive on our campus prepared to succeed in college-level courses.
Student Profile
Gabriela Castillo

Former student heading to UCLA after change in major and mindset. Gabriela Castillo didn’t know it at the time, but coming to Cosumnes River College would change her life, her outlook and her educational path.

“When I first came to CRC, honestly I had no idea what I wanted to do, I just knew for a fact that I wanted to go to college,” Castillo said. “That has always been my dream since I was little.”

The first in her family to go to college, Castillo says her biggest struggle has been finding the balance between family obligations and the obligations to herself.

“No one really thought I would go to college, I’ve had to figure it out on my own, but I have two younger sisters and I hope college will be real for them,” she said.

Castillo started as a communications major figuring she could get a job easily with it, but after finishing all her classes and getting ready to transfer, she had one semester where she had no obligations, so instead of working, she signed up for another class. She took comparative politics with Political Science Professor Martin Morales.

“I was so intimidated in the class because Professor Morales has very high expectations for his students, but I feel people do better when more is expected of them, so I was even more motivated to do well,” Castillo said. Morales said Castillo was one of those students that tried hard in his classes.

“Gabi immediately stood out to me in class and I wanted her to contribute,” said Morales. “She rose to the occasion and now leaves us for UCLA with a full scholarship. The road for Gabi was never easy but her dedication to her studies proves that everyone can push themselves to succeed. We’re very proud of her.”

Taking this class changed Castillo’s educational path. She went from a communications major to a political science major and began taking more classes, ignoring an acceptance letter from University of Southern California.

“People always told me that when you find your passion, you’ll know it and I absolutely love political science,” she said. “I never thought I would get into something like political science, but it was about changing my own expectations.”

Castillo is now on her way to University of California, Los Angeles and after getting a bachelor’s degree wants to go to Harvard Law School.

“I want to make an impact on the globalization process and although we have a good foundation in the immigration system, I want to be a part of the process that changes international law,” she added. “I like the idea of being a part of the transition for us and the world as a whole. People are so interconnected and it’s impossible to believe that this globalization is ever going to stop or slow down.”

Finding her passion, Castillo says she has finally found something that excites her and gives her the opportunity to help others.

“It’s all about perspective. My path might change again, but I’ll be ready for it,” she said. “That is what CRC did for me. I am self-confident in my abilities now and am very proud of where I came from and where I’m going. I know my family is proud of me, too and I am excited about the possibilities the future holds.”

"No one really thought I would go to college, I’ve had to figure it out on my own, but I have two younger sisters and I hope college will be real for them."

Gabriel Castillo
Welcome to the CRC Family

NEW FACULTY & CLASSIFIED STAFF (SINCE JANUARY 2013)

PHUONG LE
ASSISTANT MATH PROFESSOR
Science, Mathematics & Engineering

AMY LEUNG
ASSISTANT ECONOMICS PROFESSOR
Business & Family Science

KATHRYN MORGAN-NANCE
ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING PROFESSOR
Business & Family Science

RICHARD BACH LE
ECONOMICS PROFESSOR
24+ years of service

JUDY BEACHLER
DEAN OF INSTRUCTIONAL & STUDENT LEARNING
18+ years of service

CHRIS CORONA
STUDENT AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
17+ years of service

RETIREMENTS

Thank You
President's Letter

Welcome to the CRC Family

Staff Members

Francis Anderson
Administrative Assistant
College Planning & Research

Erica Burdock
Library Clerk
Learning Resources & College Technology

Parrish Geary
Counseling Supervisor
Counseling & Student Services

Esmeralda Gomez
Grant Coordination Clerk
Science, Mathematics & Engineering

Julie Olson
Student Personnel Assistant
Student Services

Donnisha Robinson
Assistant Sociology Professor
Humanities & Social Science

Sang Sertich
Assistant Math Professor
Science, Mathematics & Engineering

Brandy Shiners
Instructional Services Assistant
Instruction Office

Alice Kwong
Financial Aid Supervisor
35+ years of service

Travis Parker
Kinesiology Professor
41+ years of service

Janet Shaw
Instructional Services Assistant II
17+ years of service
Residing in downtown Sacramento at Pioneer House, Gene Tarr, at 87 years of age, is enjoying the good life. He lives comfortably in a studio apartment, participates in daily activities, and goes on organized trips with other active residents to places like Fairfield and Apple Hill.

Gene was a charter faculty member at CRC from 1970 to 1984. He recalls that the typing, business English, business communication, and shorthand classes he taught were located in the Science building until the Business/Social Science building was completed. Shortly before retiring from CRC, Gene was instrumental in starting the first word processing instructional program at CRC using Wang word processors. When asked how things have changed at CRC since he was here, he exclaimed, “Everything got bigger”.

Gene loved teaching. When asked what advice he has for younger people, his reply was a thoughtful, “I think education is very important. Sometimes young people don’t realize this until it is too late.” His career—which included Sacramento and Johnson high schools and Sacramento City College counseling, teaching at CRC and Heald Business College, and evening administration—spanned more than 40 years. After retiring from CRC, Gene worked in the security business until he was a “young” 78. He enjoyed his second career and was glad to keep active throughout his retirement years.

An accomplished musician, Gene sings in his church choir and, for 13 years, also sang barbershop in a CRC men’s faculty quartet. Moreover, for 10 years at CRC Gene played the piano at commencement. Now at Pioneer House he plays the grand piano whenever possible. He also enjoys reading cookbooks and novels. For many years he did all the cooking in the home and enjoyed baking for church potlucks. Now he is glad to prepare his own meals twice a day and occasionally entertain friends and family.

Over the years he and his beloved wife Gloria traveled by car and train across the country to visit family and friends. They also enjoyed cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska, and the Panama Canal. For 18 years they regularly attended the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, as well. After Gloria passed away in 2011, Gene decided to sell their long-time residence. His stepson Vance helped him with the move into Pioneer House. He talks to Vance and his daughter Barbara, who lives on the East Coast, regularly and is contented in his quieter, new lifestyle.

The Cosumnes River College Foundation is comprised of dedicated community leaders who volunteer their time and talent to help attract vital resources for students. During the 2012-2013 academic year, we welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors. We are very grateful for their service to the students, faculty and staff of CRC.

**Phillip Arndt:** Mr. Arndt has served as the Director of Government Relations for Comcast for the past 16 years. He also serves on the Board of Advisors for Vivo Eye, Inc. and is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Sheila Duruisseau-Sidqe:** Ms. Duruisseau-Sidqe is the Chief Executive Officer at The Center for Innovative Community Solutions in Sacramento. She also serves as a Program Specialist at Highlands High School. Ms. Duruisseau-Sidqe is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and California State University Sacramento.

**Lynda Willis:** Ms. Willis is the Assistant Vice President of Business Operations for Frontier Communications in Elk Grove, CA. She is a graduate of California State University Chico and the University of Dallas.

The Cosumnes River College Foundation Welcomes New Members
**Foundation Report**

**Foundation Balance Sheet**  
Year ended June 30, 2013

### Assets

**Current Assets**
- Cash in Bank: $101,520.05
- Total Current Assets: $101,520.05

**Non-Current Assets**
- Investments: $358,892.60
- A/R Year End Accrual: $237.00
- Prepaid Expenses: $11,538.34
- Total Non-Current Assets: $370,667.94

**Total Assets** = $472,187.99

### Liabilities and Net Assets

**Current Liabilities**
- A/P Year End Accrual: $78.52
- Use/Sales Tax Payable: $58.64
- Accounts Payable Module-Vendor: $387.92
- Deferred Income: $6,240.00
- Total Current Liabilities: $6,765.08

**Net Assets Unrestricted**
- Fund Balance Unrestricted: $119,794.62
- Total Net Assets Unrestricted: $119,794.62

**Net Restricted Assets**
- Fund Balance Restricted: $113,059.71
- Permanently Endowed Restricted Endowment: $232,568.58
- Total Net Assets Restricted: $345,628.29

**Total Net Assets** = $465,422.91

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** = $472,187.99

The “Permanently Restricted Endowment” are funds held in the Los Rios Foundation’s endowed account for CRC scholarships. The “Restricted Fund” balance includes non-endowed scholarship funds and monies designated for specific campus areas. “Unrestricted” funds are used to address the most pressing campus needs through the Annual Fund, such as the Textbook Scholarship, Mini-Grants and support for campus based events and activities.

CRC Foundation Net Assets have grown from $185,594 in 2004 to over $465,000 in 2013. Source: Cosumnes River College Business Office.

* For more information about the Foundation, please call (916) 691-7320
The Omnivore's Dilemma
by Michael Pollan

As a member of the CRC campus community, you are invited to participate in the One Book CRC activity by reading The Omnivore's Dilemma.

One Book CRC hopes to create an intellectual community around the reading of a common book. This activity is open to all students, faculty and staff of the college.

Copies of The Omnivore's Dilemma are available for purchase on campus. Please consider buying a personal copy from the Hawk's Nest. There are also copies in the CRC library for check out.

Look for discussions, films and other events throughout the school year or for more information contact One Book at CRC-OneBook@crc.losrios.edu

The Omnivore's Dilemma
Michael Pollan

Michael Pollan is the author of five books: Second Nature, A Place of My Own, The Botany of Desire, which was recognized as a best book of the year by the American Booksellers Association and Amazon, and the national bestsellers, The Omnivore's Dilemma, and In Defense of Food. A longtime contributing writer to The New York Times Magazine, Pollan is also the Knight Professor of Journalism at UC Berkeley. His writing on food and agriculture has won numerous awards, including the Reuters/World Conservation Union Global Award in Environmental Journalism, the James Beard Award, and the Genesis Award from the American Humane Association.

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